

socks, pantaloons, shirt and drawers—and to be left with only an old and worn-out pair of drawers and, perhaps, an equally worn-out shirt and blanket given him in exchange. This robbery of clothing was also practiced, more or less, upon officers. Even an assistant-surgeon, who was captured within four miles of Richmond, told me that he was robbed of his flannel shirt, while standing in front of the Libby Prison, and in presence of the rebel officer in charge of the squad. This was immediately after his arrival in the city, and when he had been, for the three days succeeding his capture, entirely without food. With the scanty clothing thus left them, the men were kept during the winter, often without any shelter excepting such as they could contrive to provide by excavating a sort of rifle-pit in the ground, and covering it with old blankets or canvas, as their supply of fuel was insufficient and sometimes entirely wanting; even in the hospitals their suffering from cold was very great.

One of the most melancholy sights in Wilmington was that to be seen at the "Geer" Hospitals. In these hospitals were collected all those patients who had lost their feet, either wholly or in part, by freezing, from their exposure during the past winter, and this in a well wooded country. In some of them, two or three toes only, on one or both feet, were gangrened, and in process of separating by ulceration; in others, both feet had entirely separated, and the patients were awaiting the time when their general strength and the condition of the stump would warrant a final amputation. In many cases the patients ascribed this gangrene directly to frostbites received on particular occasions; in others to their illness from which they were suffering—generally fever combined with exposure. My own impression, derived from the result of many inquiries, was that it was generally due to a continuous depression of the vital energies from starvation and neglect, resulting gradually in a destruction of the life of those parts most exposed to the cold and the weather. With all these cases awaiting relief, it was impossible that the stores brought by the "Chase" should have come at a more opportune period. From all the officers in Wilmington, of all grades and

departments, there was but one expression of gratitude and relief at hearing of our arrival, and we could not have asked more ready and cordial co-operation than was given us at once by all upon whom we depended for information and assistance. A capacious covered dock was at once assigned for the discharge and storage of the supplies, and an abundant force of negro refugees assigned to the labor of unloading the steamer. So rapidly was this work effected that during the day, on Monday, supplies were already in process of distribution to the various hospitals, a complete list of which, with the number of patients in each, had been previously obtained. The covered dock was used as an issuing office, as well as a storehouse, and being very capacious and well lighted, it afforded admirable facilities for reaching the various articles as they were needed.

It was found that all the returned prisoners, without exception, and all the men recently arrived from General Sherman's army, needed flannel shirts, drawers, and blankets; that shirts and drawers were also required by all the other sick and wounded then in hospital, and blankets by about two-thirds of them. Tin plates, cups, knives, and forks were also much needed, all of which were at once supplied. In order to regulate the distribution of food and stimulus to the different hospitals, the following diet table was made out, to serve as the basis of calculation. It was thought that such a ration, with the interchanges between various articles which could be readily effected whenever desired, would be best suited to the greater portion of the cases:

<i>Name of Article.</i>	<i>Daily Ration.</i>
Beef Stock,	2 oz.
Canned Tomatoes,	8 "
Condensed Milk,	4 "
Onions,	4 "
Potatoes,	4 "
Soft Crackers,	4 "
Chocolate,	1 "
Pickles,	4 "
Whiskey,	2 "